

DEC 22 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Etienne COUSIN ) Group Art Unit: 3655  
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 SERIAL NO: 10/070,776 ) Examiner: Brian E. Glessner  
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 FILED: April 8, 2002  
 TITLE: Rail Section For Fixing A Stretched Web, False partition Such As  
 A False Ceiling Or False Wall Comprising Same

AMENDED CLAIMS

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) Rail Section according to claim 4, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;  
an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip is approximately flat, an internal face of the lip being approximately parallel to an external face of the lip;

wherein the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;  
an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the joint has a single lip that extends at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the external wing.

9. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 8, wherein the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove.

10. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 9, wherein the lip has a free edge of the free edge of the lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each other;

wherein the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each other;

wherein the internal face of the lip extends at an angle less than 65° with respect to its external wing.

17. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 16, wherein the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove.

18. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 17, wherein the free edge of lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip comprises a first and a second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the internal or external wings of said groove, an internal face of the first lip being orientated towards the base of the groove and slanted with respect to at least one of the wings, an external face of the second lip opposite the base of the groove being perpendicular to at least one of the wings.

22. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 21, wherein the first lip has a free edge that is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing.

23. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 21, wherein the internal face of the first lip is slanted at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the external wing.

24. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 21, wherein the external wing has an extreme portion, the first and second lips projecting from said extreme portion.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Rail section according to claim 1,~~ A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip comprises first and second lips, each lip projecting from one of the internal or external wings of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base of the groove and an external opposing face.

26. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 25, wherein the first and second lips are approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base of the groove and extending halfway between the internal and external wings of the groove.

27. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 25, wherein the internal face of at least one of the first and second lips is slanted at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the internal or external wing from which the slanted lip extends.

28. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 25, wherein the external face of at least one of the first and second lips extends perpendicular to internal or external wing from which the lips extend.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Rail section according to claim 2,~~ A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint retaining the edge of the stretched fabric;

wherein the internal and external wings are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer.

30. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:~~

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid internal and external wings and a second material constituting the joint.

31. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 30, wherein the internal and external wings are made of a rigid PVC-based material, the joint being made of a flexible PVC.

32. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:~~

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein said internal wing is approximately parallel to a lower portion of the external wing, and an upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling two rail sections.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, A false wall comprising a stretched fabric fixed along its edges to a support fixed onto a mounting surface in a room, said support comprising a rail formed of rail sections according to claim 1, wherein the edge of said fabric is provided with an excess thickness taking support against an internal face of the joint;

wherein said false wall is and used as a false ceiling, the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the internal and external wings of the groove being approximately vertical, the external wing of the groove being mounted close to the mounting surface and the internal wing of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the external wing having a lower extreme portion, the joint extending from said lower extreme portion, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between a free edge of the joint and the internal wing of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against an internal face of the joint and an internal face of the internal wing of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on a lower extreme edge of the internal wing of the groove;

wherein the internal and external wings of the groove have approximately identical heights, an external face of the joint being disposed perpendicular to the internal and external wings, and in the continuity of the stretched fabric.

36-39 (Cancelled)

40. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 5, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:~~

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip is approximately flat, an internal face of the lip being approximately parallel to an external face of the lip; wherein the lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the external wing;

wherein:

the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove;

a free edge of the lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing.

41. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4, A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:~~

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;

an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the lip is approximately flat, an internal face of the lip being approximately parallel to an external face of the lip;

wherein:

the lip of the joint extends at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the external wing;

the lip has a free edge that is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing;

the external wing has an extreme portion, the lip projecting from said extreme portion.

42. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1,~~ A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base;  
an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein:

the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the lip not being parallel to each another;

the internal face of the lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the external wing;

the lip has a free edge that is disposed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing.

43. ~~(Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 13, characterised in that:~~ A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base, an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;



wherein the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each other; wherein the internal face of the lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the external wing;

the internal face of the lip of the joint extends at an angle less than 65° with respect to the external wing;

the free edge of the lip is disposed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing;

the external wing has an extreme portion, the lip projecting from said extreme portion;

the external face of the lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the internal and external wings of the groove.

44. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, wherein: A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base; an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint retaining the edge of the stretched fabric;

the lip comprises a first and a second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the internal or external wings of said groove, an internal face of the first lip being orientated towards the base of the groove and slanted with respect to at least one of the wings, an external face of the second lip opposite the base wall of the groove being perpendicular to at least one of the wings;

the first lip has a free edge that is in support against the internal wing of the groove opposite the external wing;

the internal face of the first lip is slanted at an angle of less than 65° with respect to the external wing;

the external wing has an extreme portion, the first and second lips projecting from said extreme portion.

45. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, wherein: A rail section for stretched fabric false partitions affixed to a mounting surface, said rail section comprising:

a groove defined by an internal wing, an external wing and a base; an interval adjacent to the external wing and separating the external wing from a mounting surface;

a joint including a lip, and a flap outside the groove, said flap extending outward from said external wing toward said mounting surface;

said lip being shaped and configured to pinch the fabric of the false partition between said lip and said internal wing;

wherein the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint retaining the edge of the stretched fabric;

the lip comprises a first and second lip, each lip projecting from either one of the internal or external wings of said groove and having an internal face opposite the base of the groove and an external opposing face;

the first and second lips being approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base of the groove and extending halfway between the internal and external wings of the groove;

the internal face of at least one of the lips being slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the internal or external wing from which the slanted lip extends;

the external face of at least one of the two lips extends perpendicular to internal or external wing from which lips extend;

the internal and external wings of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer;

the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid wings of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint;

the wings of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material, the joint being made of a flexible PVC;

said internal wing being approximately parallel to a lower portion of the external wing, and an upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling two rail sections.

46-48 (Cancelled)